ROCKET RACCOON® & GROOT™ 10

CIVIL WAR II

ROCKET RACCOON & GROOT

PART III OF THE BAD SOUTHERN PUN TRILOGY: "Y'ALLS WELL THAT ENDS WELL"

ROCKET RACCOON AND GROOT ARE BEST FRIENDS ALL THE TIME.
THEY ARE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY MOST OF THE TIME.
THEY ARE HEROES...LET'S SAY...AT LEAST HALF THE TIME. SOMETIMES THEY'RE BOUNTY HUNTERS, WHICH IS KIND OF A GRAY AREA.

AN INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES HAS THE ABILITY TO SEE THE FUTURE. CAPTAIN MARVEL HAS DECIDED THAT SHE CAN'T STAND IDLE WHEN ULYSSES FORESEES INNOCENTS IN DANGER, SO SHE'S GATHERED HER ALLIES TO RESPOND TO HIS MOST DIRE PREDICTIONS.

ULYSSES' LEAST DIRE PREDICTION INDICATED THAT CHAMMY, AN ALIEN CROOK WHO KEEPS FRUSTRATINGLY ESCAPING ROCKET, WAS IN GEORGIA. CAPTAIN MARVEL LET ROCKET AND GROOT GO WITH COMMUNICATORS AND THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY'D BE BACK SOON TO ACTUALLY HELP. BUT CHAMMY WAS ALSO BEING TRACKED BY HIS HUMAN GIRLFRIEND RUTH, GWEN POOLE (BOUNTY HUNTER, KNOWS SHE'S IN A COMIC BOOK UNIVERSE), AND REEVE, AN ALIEN LIKE CHAMMY WHO STOLE SOMETHING FROM CHAMMY'S BRAIN, CUT GROOT IN HALF, BEAT EVERYONE UP, AND LEFT. IT'S HARD TO SAY WHO'S IRRITATING ROCKET THE MOST (GWEN).

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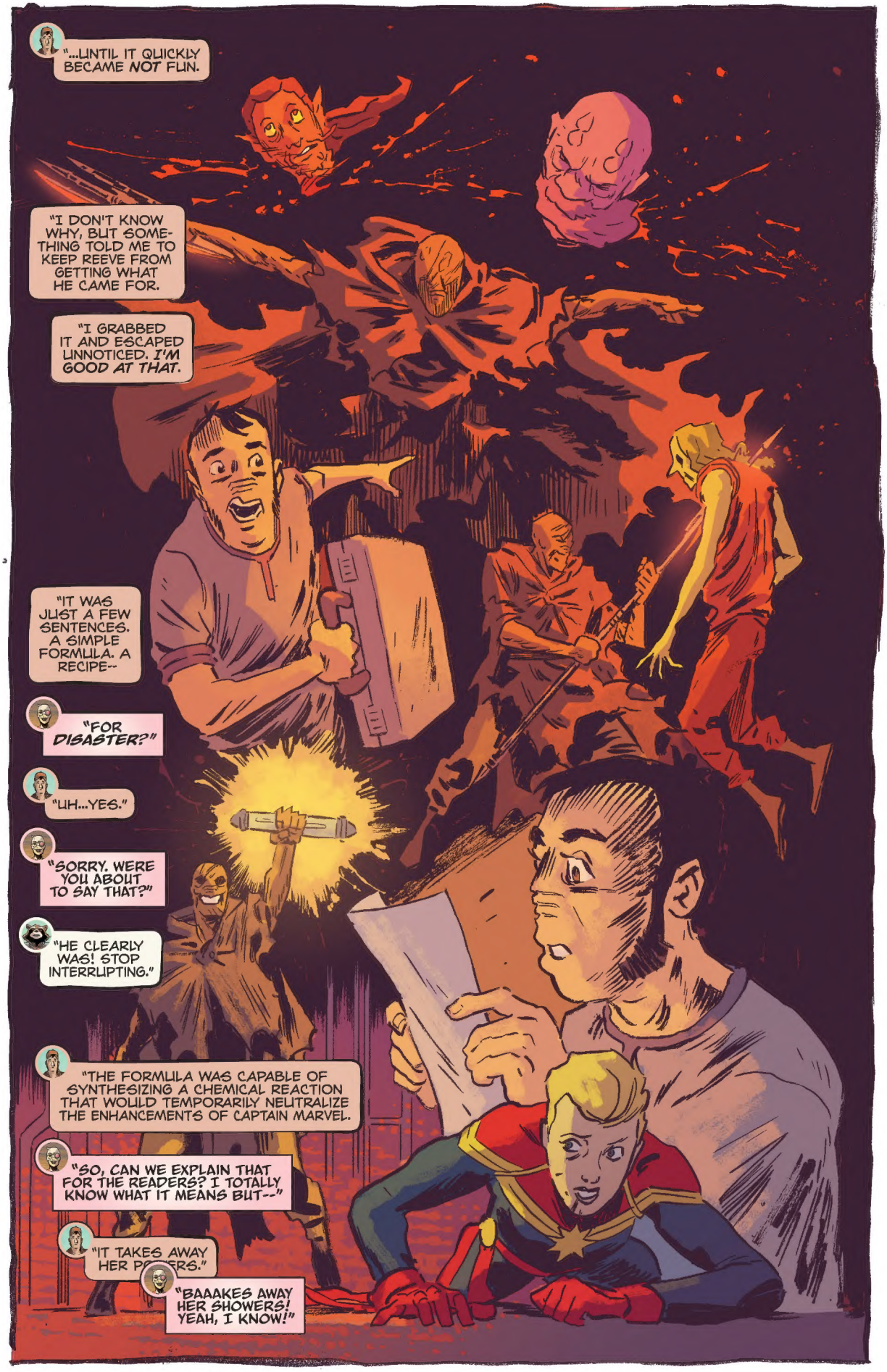
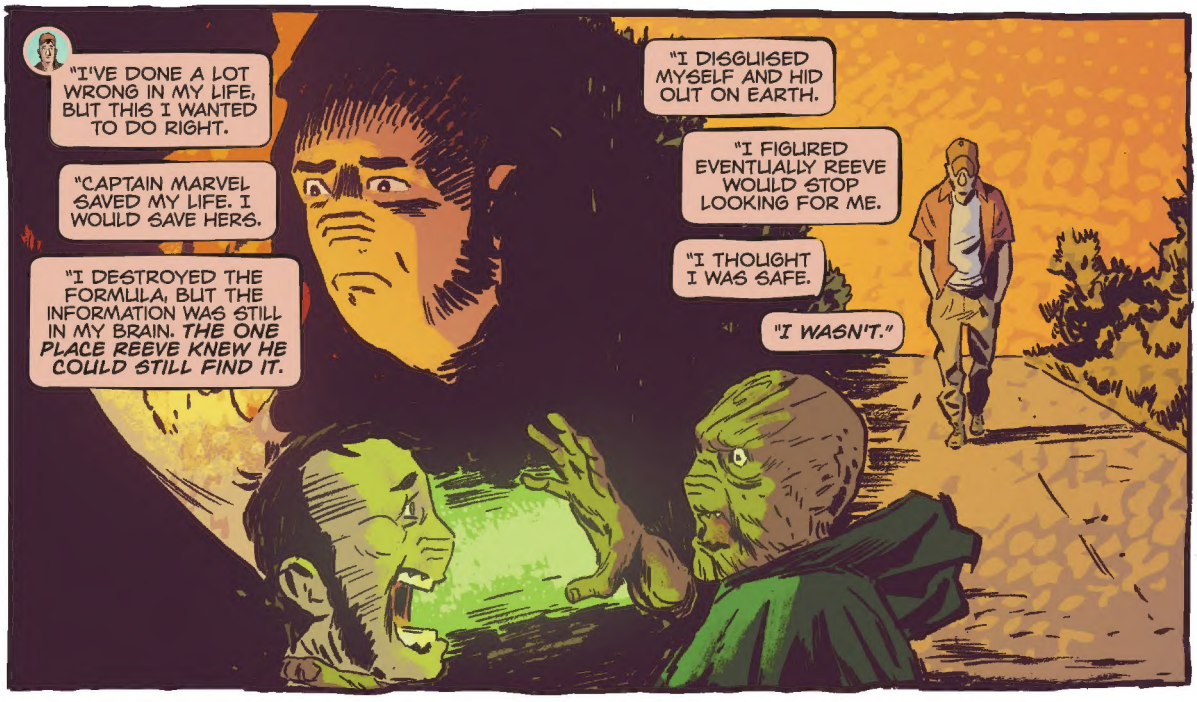
YOU? NEED OUR HELP?! AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE YOU'VE CAUSED ME?! THE ANSWER'S NO!
OH...UH... HANG ON A SECOND.
UNLESS YOU NEED HELP GETTING YOUR FACE BASHED...IN WHICH CASE, SURE.
SHOULD WE MAYBE RECAP THIS FOR ANYONE WHO DOESN'T READ THE RECAP PAGE? WHICH IS EVERYONE.
WHAT?! NO! LITERALLY EVERYBODY HERE HAS BEEN PRESENT THE WHOLE TIME! WE ALL KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. WHY DO YOU ALWAYS WANT TO RECAP THINGS?
SORRY, READERS, I TRIED.
NEXT STOP, BASH TOWN! POPULATION: YOUR FACE.
WAIT! JUST HEAR ME OUT, OKAY?! THEN YOU CAN HIT ME ALL YOU LIKE!
YEAH, LET'S HEAR HIM OUT!
TRY TO SQUEEZE IN A QUICK RECAP IF YOU GET THE CHANCE.

"I WAS BORN ON A SMALL PLANET CALLED USARKIA."
"WOW. OKAY, YOU DON'T NEED TO RECAP *EVERYTHING*. JUST THE--"
"SHUT UP! LET HIM FINISH SO I CAN GET TO THE BASHING."
"IT WAS RUN BY A TYRANT.
"A TYRANT WHO DREAMED OF PURIFYING THE GENE POOL AND--"
"YEAH, YEAH. CLASSIC TYRANT. I GET IT."
"RIGHT? IT'S LIKE, 'HEY TYRANTS, DREAM OF SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR ONCE!'"
"I AND MANY OTHERS WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH.
"BUT *CAPTAIN MARVEL* SAVED US.
"SHE SAVED ME."

"AFTER CAPTAIN MARVEL LEFT, THINGS WERE GOOD FOR A WHILE.
"THEN A NEW TYRANT SEIZED POWER. HE WAS WORSE THAN THE LAST. SO I LEFT, TOO.
"THERE'S NOT MANY OPTIONS FOR A REFUGEE ALIEN...
"...SO I DID WHAT I WAS GOOD AT.
"I FELL IN WITH A GANG OF SMUGGLERS. TOUGH, BUT SMALL-TIME.
"THEN...
"...OUR LEADER FOUND SOMETHING BIG.
"I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WE WERE SELLING. I WAS JUST PROVIDING PROTECTION.
"THE BUYER WAS AN ALIEN NAMED REEVE. ONE OF MY KIND.
"WHICH AT FIRST I THOUGHT WAS FUN...


"...UNTIL IT QUICKLY BECAME NOT FUN.
"I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT SOMETHING TOLD ME TO KEEP REEVE FROM GETTING WHAT HE CAME FOR.
"I GRABBED IT AND ESCAPED UNNOTICED. I'M GOOD AT THAT.
"IT WAS JUST A FEW SENTENCES. A SIMPLE FORMULA. A RECIPE--
"FOR DISASTER?"
"UH...YES."
"SORRY. WERE YOU ABOUT TO SAY THAT?"
"HE CLEARLY WAS! STOP INTERRUPTING."
"THE FORMULA WAS CAPABLE OF SYNTHESIZING A CHEMICAL REACTION THAT WOULD TEMPORARILY NEUTRALIZE THE ENHANCEMENTS OF CAPTAIN MARVEL.
"SO, CAN WE EXPLAIN THAT FOR THE READERS? I TOTALLY KNOW WHAT IT MEANS BUT--"
"IT TAKES AWAY HER P RS."
"BAAAKES AWAY HER SHOWERS! YEAH, I KNOW!"

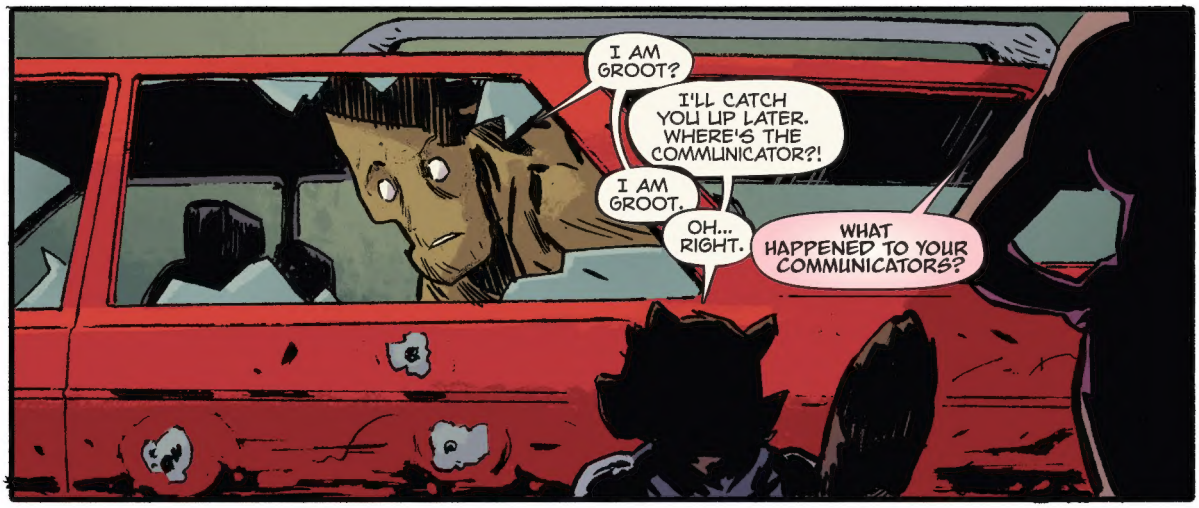

"I'VE DONE A LOT WRONG IN MY LIFE, BUT THIS I WANTED TO DO RIGHT.
"CAPTAIN MARVEL SAVED MY LIFE. I WOULD SAVE HERS.
"I DESTROYED THE FORMULA, BUT THE INFORMATION WAS STILL IN MY BRAIN. THE ONE PLACE REEVE KNEW HE COULD STILL FIND IT.
"I DISGUISED MYSELF AND HID OUT ON EARTH.
"I FIGURED EVENTUALLY REEVE WOULD STOP LOOKING FOR ME.
"I THOUGHT I WAS SAFE.
"I WASN'T."

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. REEVE KNOWS HOW TO KILL CAPTAIN MARVEL AND HE'S GOING TO DO IT...
...UNLESS WE STOP HIM.
HOLY FLARK.
WHOA. THIS IS, LIKE, SO EXCITING. I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS INTO SUPER HERO STUFF. BUT. I. AM. INTO. IT.

SO YOU WERE WILLING TO COME OUT OF HIDING, GET BASHED BY ME, AND RISK YOUR LIFE, ALL TO SAVE CAPTAIN MARVEL?
YEAH.
THAT'S ACTUALLY VERY ADMIRABLE, CHAMMY.

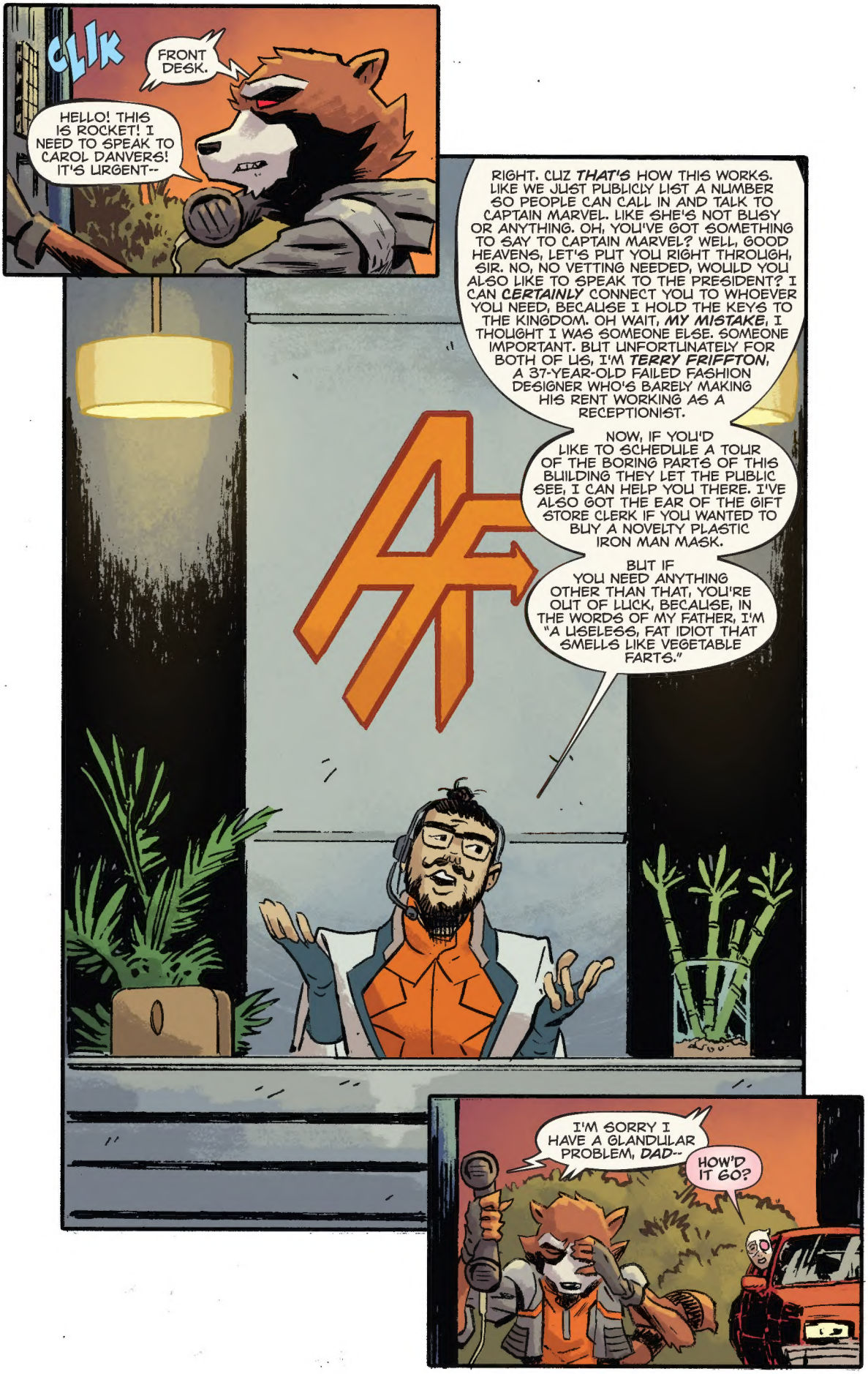
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU JUST SAID HE WAS ADMIRABLE!
HE IS. BUT I'M NOT NOT GONNA BASH HIM.
HANG ON, I'VE GOT SOME QUESTIONS.
OW!
THAK

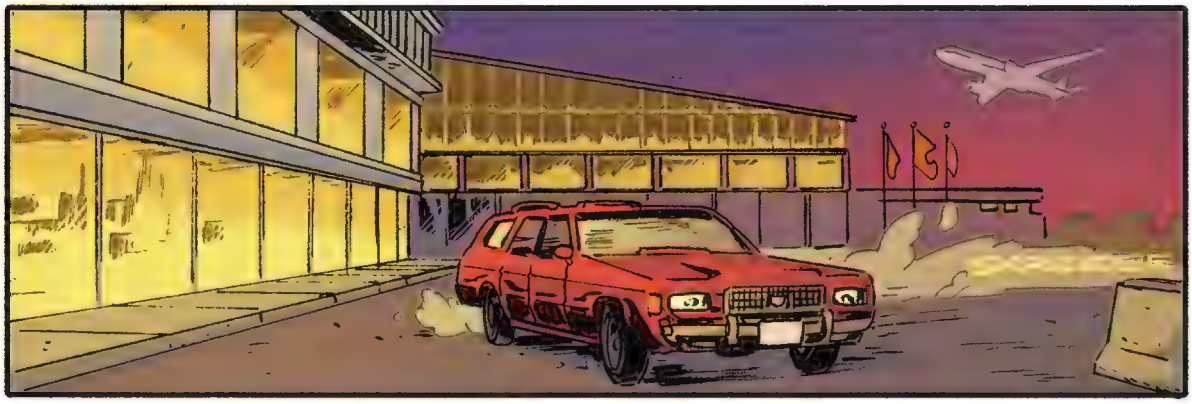
WHY DOES REEVE WANT TO KILL CAPTAIN MARVEL?
WELL...
"AFTER CAPTAIN MARVEL LEFT THE PLANET...THE NEW TYRANT THAT SEIZED POWER STARTED--"
WHAT?! WHO CARES?! WE DON'T HAVE TIME! WE GOTTA WARN CAROL...
I JUST WANT A LITTLE CONTEXT! AND I FEEL LIKE THE READERS--
BZZT
NO ONE CARES ABOUT YOUR WEIRD COMIC BOOK HALLUCINATION!
GROOT! WE GOTTA WARN CAROL THAT--
...I AM... GROOT...
OH GEEZ, HE'S STILL IN THE CAR!

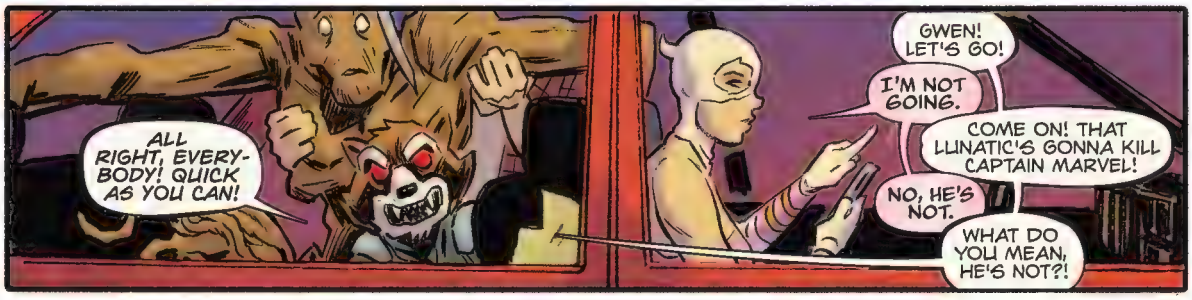

I AM GROOT?
I'LL CATCH YOU UP LATER. WHERE'S THE COMMUNICATOR?!
I AM GROOT.
OH... RIGHT.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR COMMUNICATORS?

"UHH...THEY RAN OUT OF BATTERIES."

GAS
SO HE'S DEFINITELY GOT SOME BODY DYSMORPHIA ISSUES, HUH? BECAUSE HE IS NOT NEARLY THAT MUSCULAR.
HELLO, YOU'VE REACHED THE TRISKELION... PLEASE HOLD.

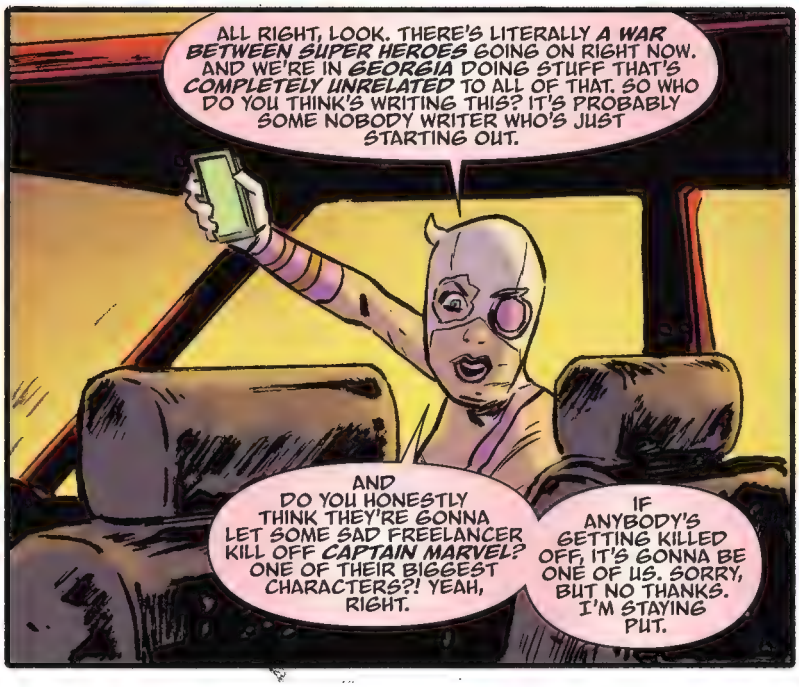

CLIK
FRONT DESK.
HELLO! THIS IS ROCKET! I NEED TO SPEAK TO CAROL DANVERS! IT'S URGENT--
RIGHT. CUZ *THAT'S* HOW THIS WORKS. LIKE WE JUST PUBLICLY LIST A NUMBER SO PEOPLE CAN CALL IN AND TALK TO CAPTAIN MARVEL. LIKE SHE'S NOT BUSY OR ANYTHING. OH, YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO CAPTAIN MARVEL? WELL, GOOD HEAVENS, LET'S PUT YOU RIGHT THROUGH, SIR. NO, NO VETTING NEEDED, WOULD YOU ALSO LIKE TO SPEAK TO THE PRESIDENT? I CAN *CERTAINLY* CONNECT YOU TO WHOEVER YOU NEED, BECAUSE I HOLD THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM. OH WAIT, *MY MISTAKE*, I THOUGHT I WAS SOMEONE ELSE. SOMEONE IMPORTANT. BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR BOTH OF US, I'M *TERRY FRIFFTON*, A 37-YEAR-OLD FAILED FASHION DESIGNER WHO'S BARELY MAKING HIS RENT WORKING AS A RECEPTIONIST.
NOW, IF YOU'D LIKE TO SCHEDULE A TOUR OF THE BORING PARTS OF THIS BUILDING THEY LET THE PUBLIC SEE, I CAN HELP YOU THERE. I'VE ALSO GOT THE EAR OF THE GIFT STORE CLERK IF YOU WANTED TO BUY A NOVELTY PLASTIC IRON MAN MASK.
BUT IF YOU NEED ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT, YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, BECAUSE, IN THE WORDS OF MY FATHER, I'M "A USELESS, FAT IDIOT THAT SMELLS LIKE VEGETABLE FARTS."
I'M SORRY I HAVE A GLANDULAR PROBLEM, *DAD*--
HOW'D IT GO?



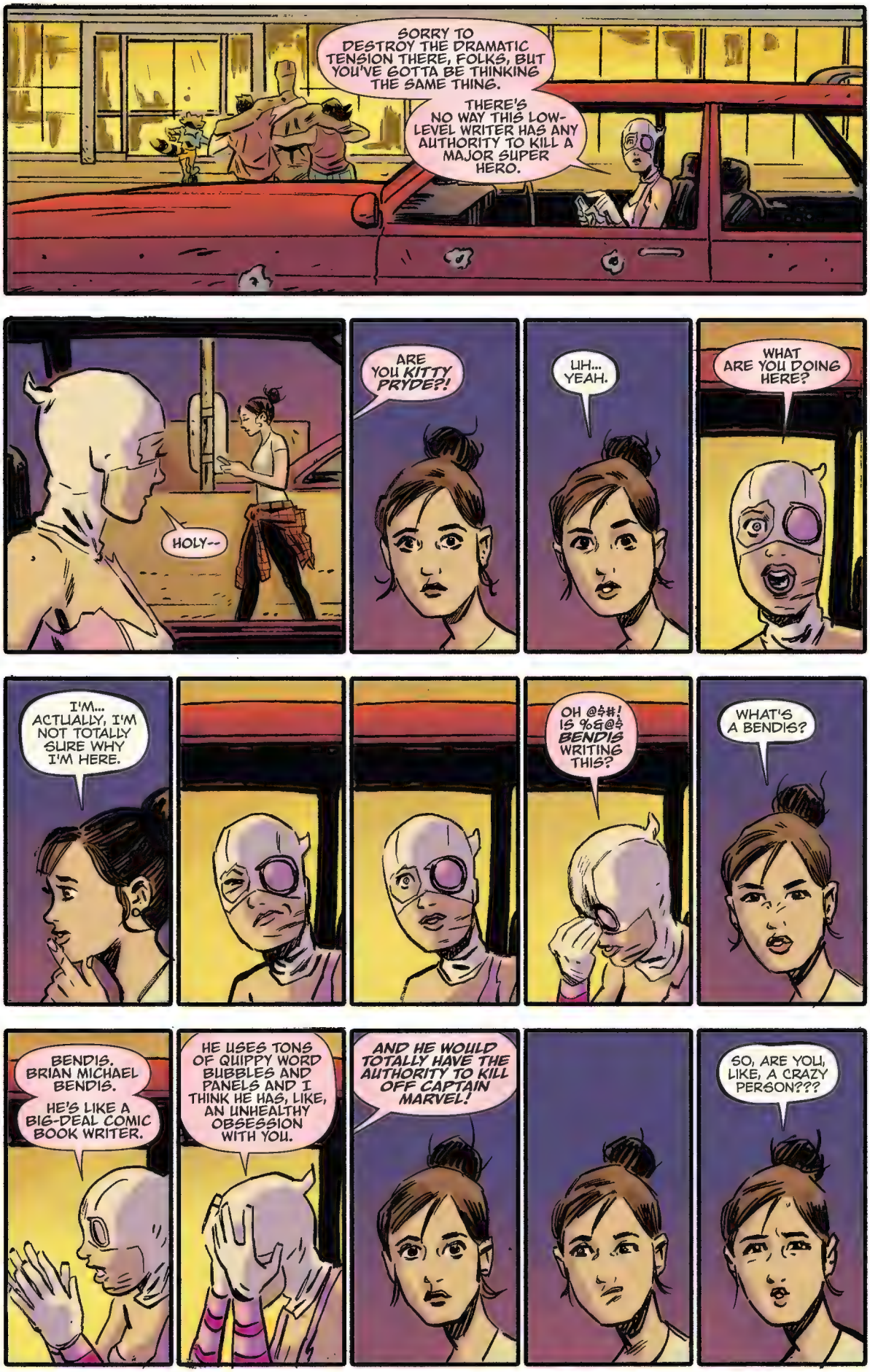

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY! QUICK AS YOU CAN!
GWEN! LET'S GO!
I'M NOT GOING.
COME ON! THAT LUNATIC'S GONNA KILL CAPTAIN MARVEL!
NO, HE'S NOT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HE'S NOT?!

BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT GONNA KILL OFF CAPTAIN MARVEL IN A COMIC BOOK STARRING SQUIRREL AND THE TALKING TREE!

WHAT?
WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT?


ALL RIGHT, LOOK. THERE'S LITERALLY A WAR BETWEEN SUPER HEROES GOING ON RIGHT NOW. AND WE'RE IN GEORGIA DOING STUFF THAT'S COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO ALL OF THAT. SO WHO DO YOU THINK'S WRITING THIS? IT'S PROBABLY SOME NOBODY WRITER WHO'S JUST STARTING OUT.
AND DO YOU HONESTLY THINK THEY'RE GONNA LET SOME SAD FREELANCER KILL OFF CAPTAIN MARVEL? ONE OF THEIR BIGGEST CHARACTERS?! YEAH, RIGHT.
IF ANYBODY'S GETTING KILLED OFF, IT'S GONNA BE ONE OF US. SORRY, BUT NO THANKS. I'M STAYING PUT.

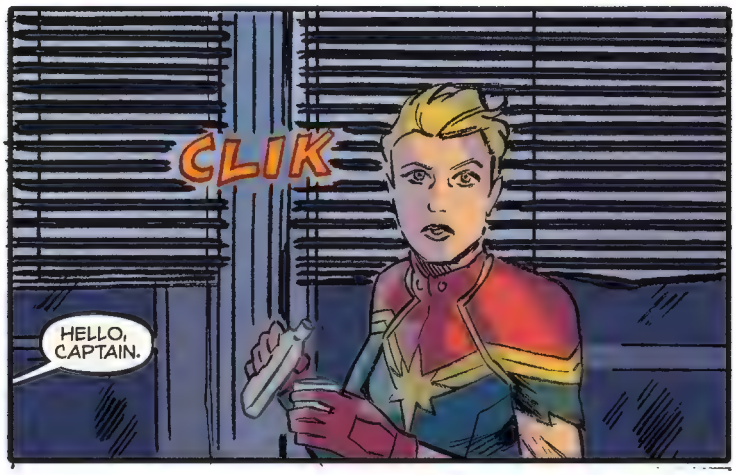
I AM GROOT?

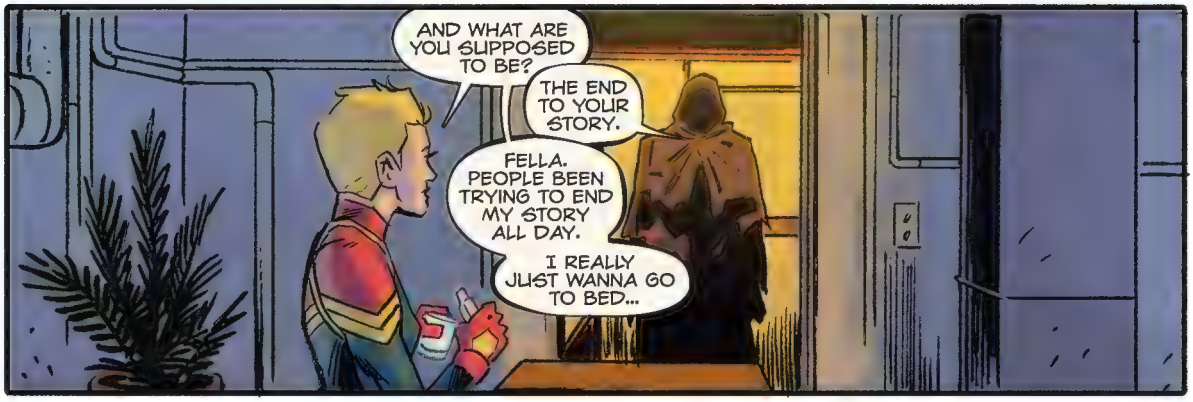

SORRY TO DESTROY THE DRAMATIC TENSION THERE, FOLKS, BUT YOU'VE GOTTA BE THINKING THE SAME THING.
THERE'S NO WAY THIS LOW-LEVEL WRITER HAS ANY AUTHORITY TO KILL A MAJOR SUPER HERO.
HOLY--
ARE YOU KITTY PRYDE?!
UH... YEAH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M... ACTUALLY, I'M NOT TOTALLY SURE WHY I'M HERE.
OH @$#! IS %$@$ BENDIS WRITING THIS?
WHAT'S A BENDIS?
BENDIS. BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS.
HE'S LIKE A BIG-DEAL COMIC BOOK WRITER.
HE USES TONS OF QUIPPY WORD BUBBLES AND PANELS AND I THINK HE HAS, LIKE, AN UNHEALTHY OBSESSION WITH YOU.
AND HE WOULD TOTALLY HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO KILL OFF CAPTAIN MARVEL!
SO, ARE YOU, LIKE, A CRAZY PERSON???

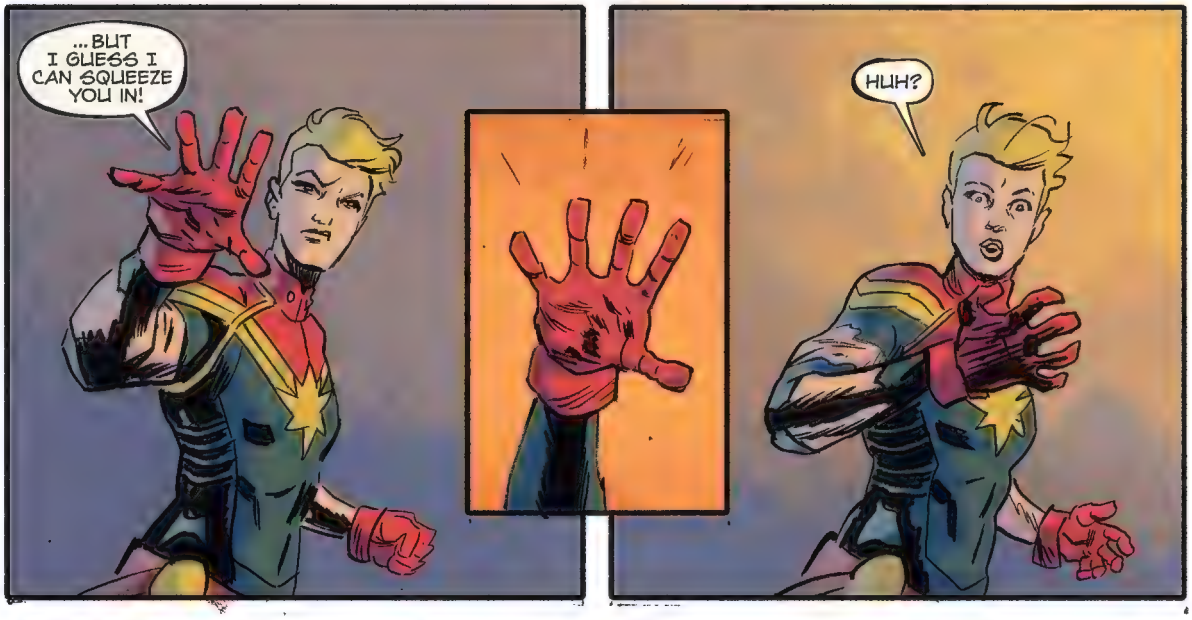
I NEED A TICKET FOR WHATEVER FLIGHT THE TREE AND SQUIRREL ARE ON! AND HURRY UP!
BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS IS ABOUT TO KILL OFF CAPTAIN MARVEL!!
OKAY, I'VE GOT ONE TICKET LEFT, BUT IT'S A MIDDLE SEAT.
OH... YUCK.
HMM...IS THIS REALLY WORTH IT? I DON'T KNOW HER PERSONALLY...
I JUST DON'T SEE WHY YOU SHOULD GET THE AISLE, YOU HAVE THE SHORTEST LEGS OF ANY OF US!
THE TRISKELION.
GOOD WORK TODAY, GUYS. EVERYBODY, GET SOME REST.

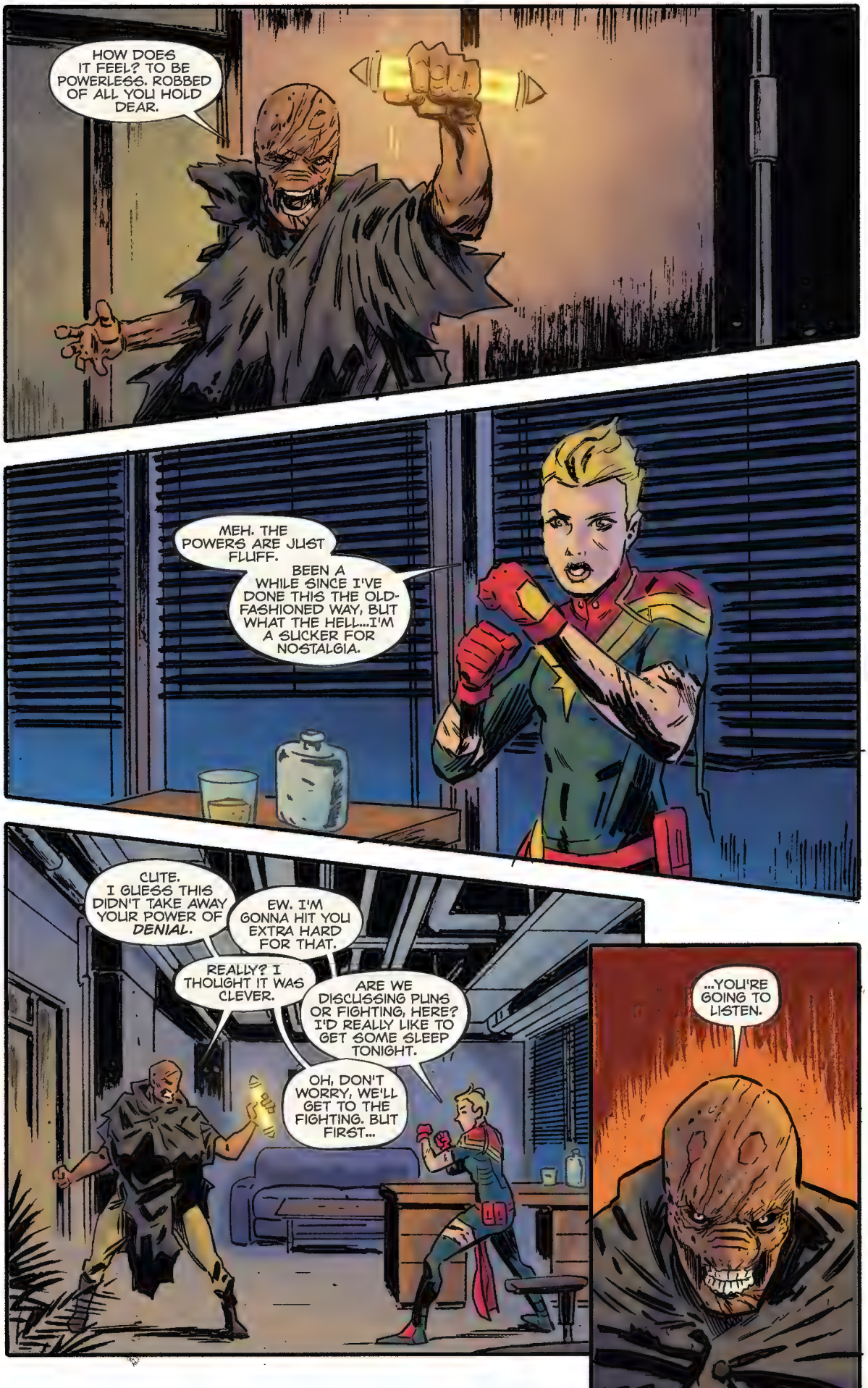
PUCK, YOU GOOD? NEED TO SHOWER OR SOMETHING BEFORE YOU TAKE OFF?
THAT'S OKAY, CAPTAIN, I'M GOOD.
PUCK. TAKE THE HINT. SHOWER.

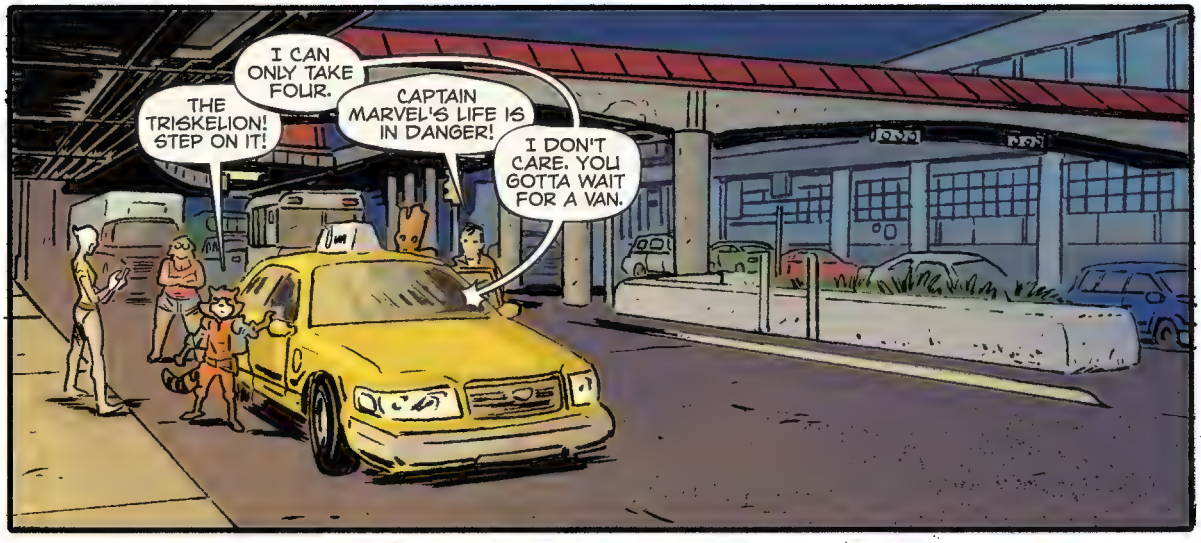
STUPID NON-ALCOHOLIC VODKA. WHAT'S EVEN THE POINT?

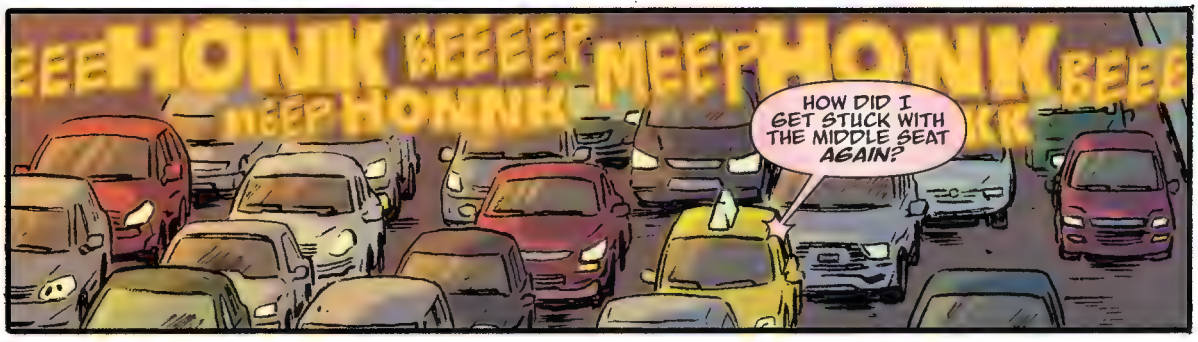

CLIK
HELLO, CAPTAIN.

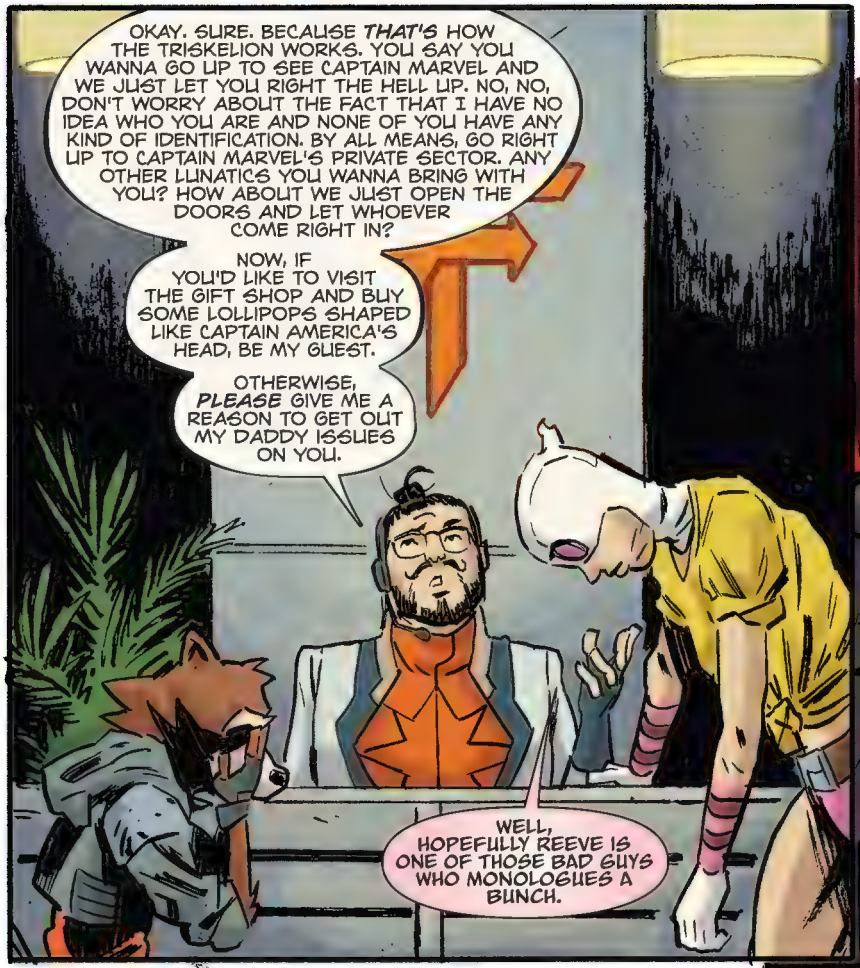

AND WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
THE END TO YOUR STORY.
FELLA. PEOPLE BEEN TRYING TO END MY STORY ALL DAY.
I REALLY JUST WANNA GO TO BED...


...BUT I GUESS I CAN SQUEEZE YOU IN!
HUH?

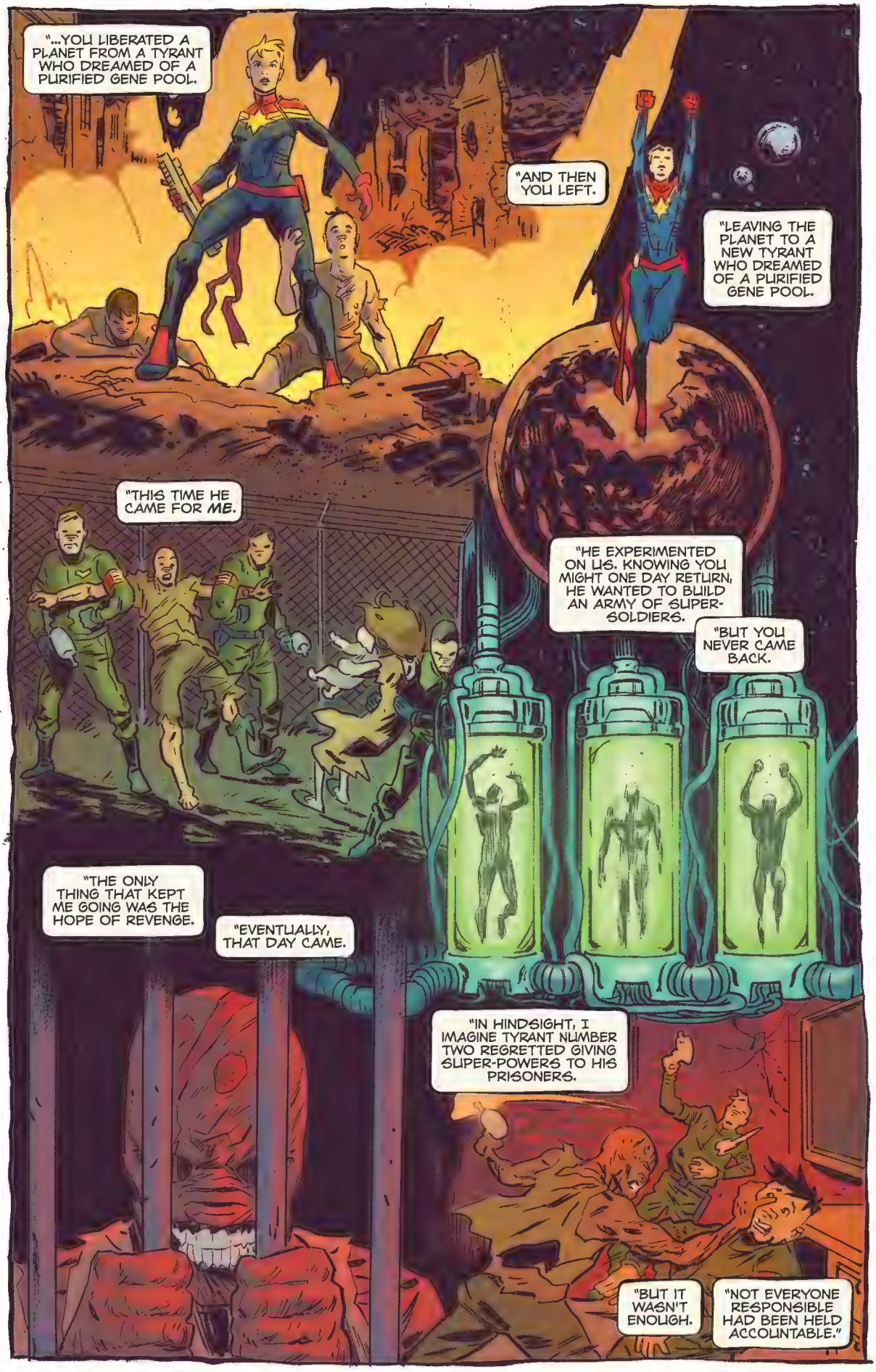

HOW DOES IT FEEL? TO BE POWERLESS. ROBBED OF ALL YOU HOLD DEAR.
MEH. THE POWERS ARE JUST FLUFF.
BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE DONE THIS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY, BUT WHAT THE HELL...I'M A SUCKER FOR NOSTALGIA.
CUTE. I GUESS THIS DIDN'T TAKE AWAY YOUR POWER OF DENIAL.
EW. I'M GONNA HIT YOU EXTRA HARD FOR THAT.
REALLY? I THOUGHT IT WAS CLEVER.
ARE WE DISCUSSING PUNS OR FIGHTING, HERE? I'D REALLY LIKE TO GET SOME SLEEP TONIGHT.
OH, DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET TO THE FIGHTING. BUT FIRST...
...YOU'RE GOING TO LISTEN.


I CAN ONLY TAKE FOUR.
THE TRISKELION! STEP ON IT!
CAPTAIN MARVEL'S LIFE IS IN DANGER!
I DON'T CARE. YOU GOTTA WAIT FOR A VAN.

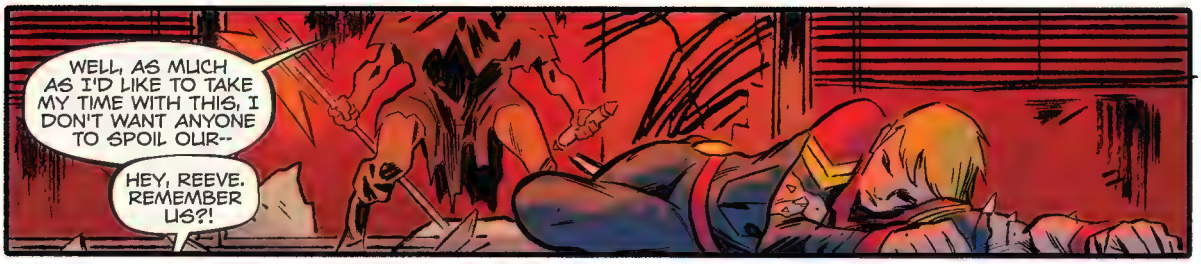

HONK
BEEEEP
MEEP
HONNK
HONK
HOW DID I GET STUCK WITH THE MIDDLE SEAT AGAIN?


OKAY. SURE. BECAUSE *THAT'S* HOW THE TRISKELION WORKS. YOU SAY YOU WANNA GO UP TO SEE CAPTAIN MARVEL AND WE JUST LET YOU RIGHT THE HELL UP. NO, NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE FACT THAT I HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE AND NONE OF YOU HAVE ANY KIND OF IDENTIFICATION. BY ALL MEANS, GO RIGHT UP TO CAPTAIN MARVEL'S PRIVATE SECTOR. ANY OTHER LUNATICS YOU WANNA BRING WITH YOU? HOW ABOUT WE JUST OPEN THE DOORS AND LET WHOEVER COME RIGHT IN?
NOW, IF YOU'D LIKE TO VISIT THE GIFT SHOP AND BUY SOME LOLLIPOPS SHAPED LIKE CAPTAIN AMERICA'S HEAD, BE MY GUEST.
OTHERWISE, *PLEASE* GIVE ME A REASON TO GET OUT MY DADDY ISSUES ON YOU.
WELL, HOPEFULLY REEVE IS ONE OF THOSE BAD GUYS WHO MONOLOGUES A BUNCH.

MY STORY BEGINS YEARS AGO...

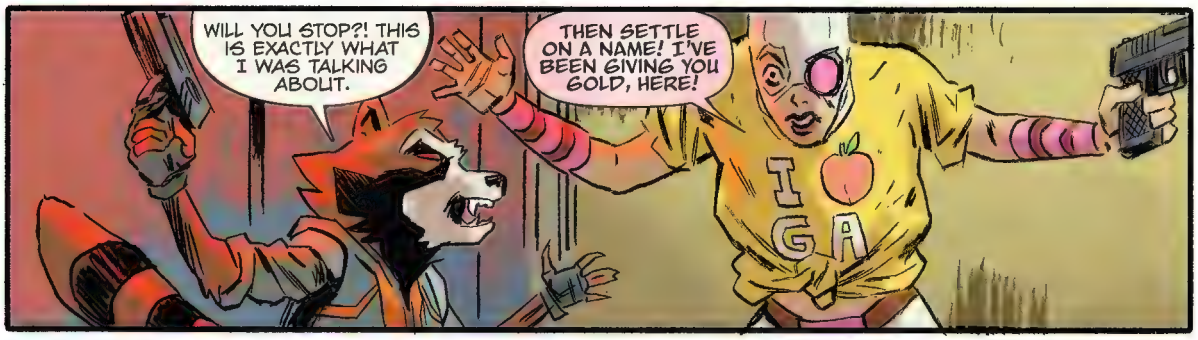

"...YOU LIBERATED A PLANET FROM A TYRANT WHO DREAMED OF A PURIFIED GENE POOL.
"AND THEN YOU LEFT.
"LEAVING THE PLANET TO A NEW TYRANT WHO DREAMED OF A PURIFIED GENE POOL.
"THIS TIME HE CAME FOR ME.
"HE EXPERIMENTED ON US. KNOWING YOU MIGHT ONE DAY RETURN, HE WANTED TO BUILD AN ARMY OF SUPER-SOLDIERS.
"BUT YOU NEVER CAME BACK.
"THE ONLY THING THAT KEPT ME GOING WAS THE HOPE OF REVENGE.
"EVENTUALLY, THAT DAY CAME.
"IN HINDSIGHT, I IMAGINE TYRANT NUMBER TWO REGRETTED GIVING SUPER-POWERS TO HIS PRISONERS.
"BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH.
"NOT EVERYONE RESPONSIBLE HAD BEEN HELD ACCOUNTABLE."

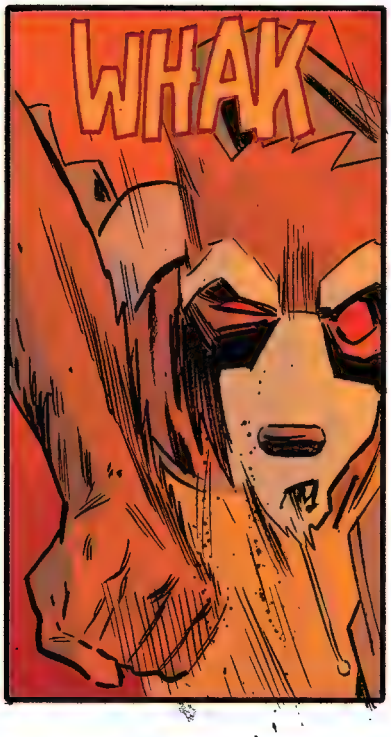
YOU "HEROES" TELL YOURSELVES YOU'RE DOING GOOD.
BUT YOU ONLY DO GOOD WHEN IT SERVES YOUR OWN INTERESTS.
YOU DON'T ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE YOU LEAVE BEHIND.
WELL, I'M HERE TO REMIND YOU.
I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY THAT HAPPENED TO YOU. AND YOU'RE NOT WRONG...
BUT THIS ISN'T THE ANSWER.
BELIEVE ME, I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO WANT REVENGE. AND I CAN TELL YOU FIRSTHAND, IT DOESN'T END THE PAIN. IT ONLY DEEPENS THE HOLE IT LEFT BEHIND.
THAK
OH, I DUNNO, THAT FELT PRETTY GOOD.
KSSSH


WELL, AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO TAKE MY TIME WITH THIS, I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO SPOIL OUR--
HEY, REEVE. REMEMBER US?!

YOU TOOK US ON INDIVIDUALLY BEFORE, BUT NOW WE'RE WORKING AS A TEAM AND--
THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE THE GWEN-DOW PANES.
NO, WE'RE NOT.

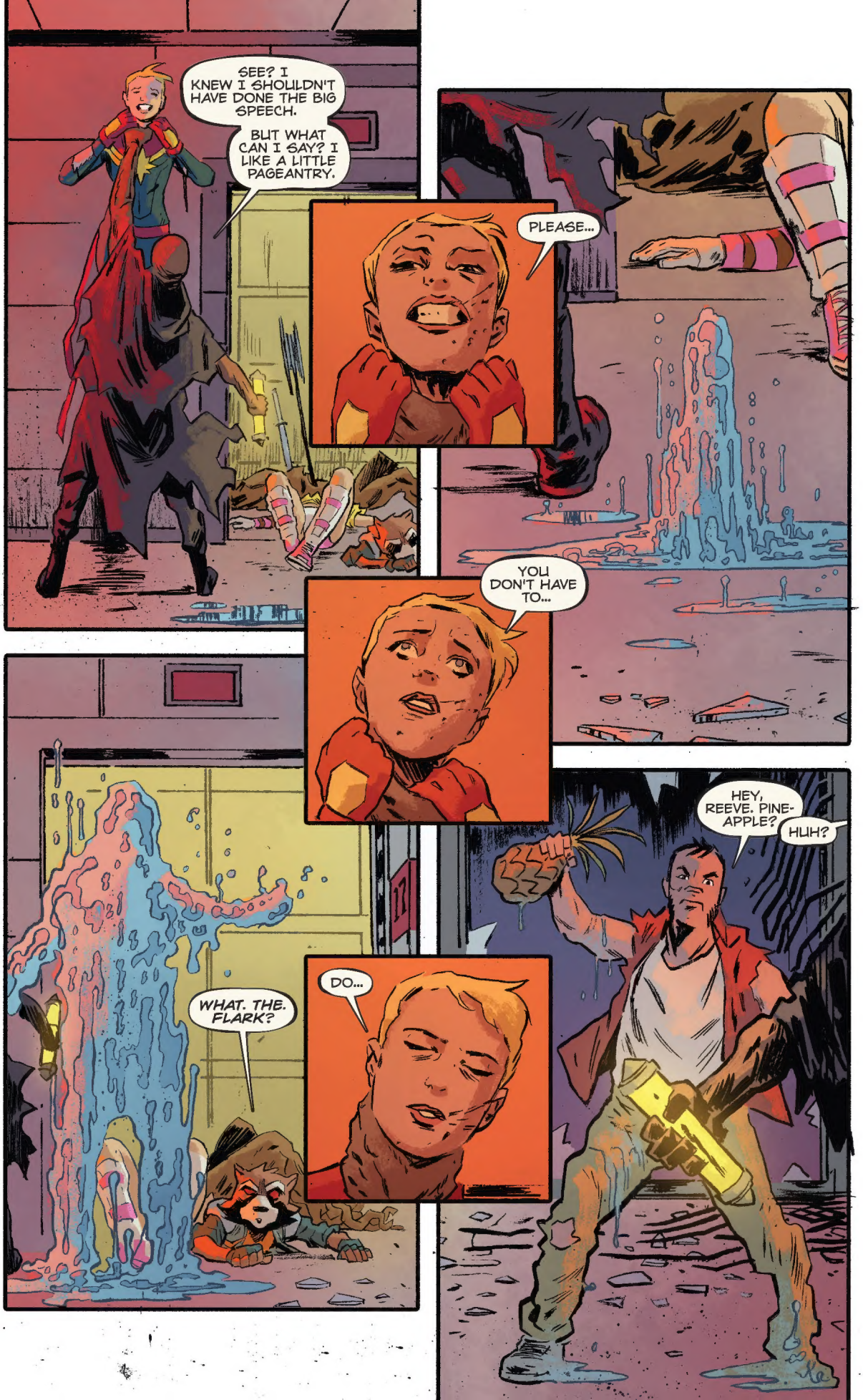
THE POINT IS, WE WORKED PAST OUR DIFFERENCES ON THE FLIGHT, AND NOW THAT WE'RE TOGETHER...
...WE'RE UNSTOPPABLE. SO--
AND YOU CAN CALL US GWEN AND THE-ART-OF-MOTORCYCLE-MAINTENANCES.


WILL YOU STOP?! THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT.
THEN SETTLE ON A NAME! I'VE BEEN GIVING YOU GOLD, HERE!


WHAK

THAK

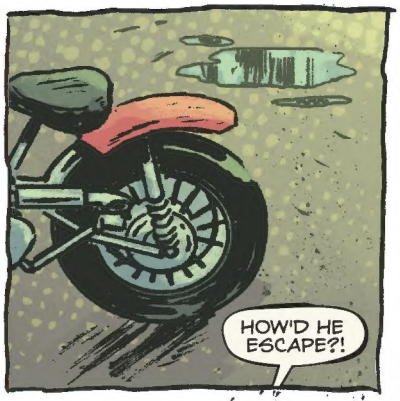
THUK


SEE? I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THE BIG SPEECH.
BUT WHAT CAN I SAY? I LIKE A LITTLE PAGEANTRY.
PLEASE...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
HEY, REEVE. PINE-APPLE?
HUH?
DO...
WHAT. THE. FLARK?

WOMP

LATER.
I WAS EXPERIMENTED ON ALONGSIDE REEVE. BUT THEY COULD ONLY GIVE ME ONE POWER...
17

WHERE'D HE GO?!

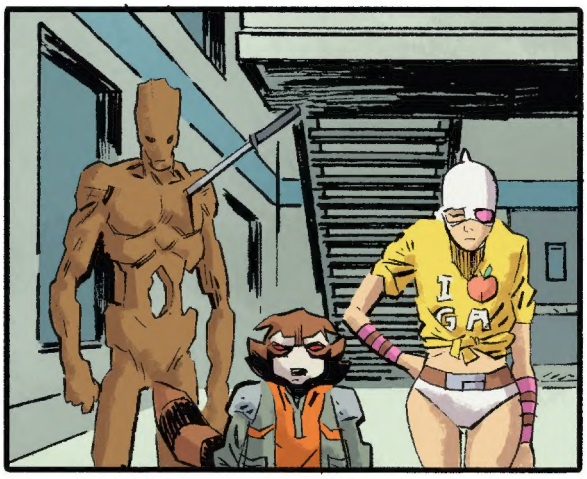

HOW'D HE ESCAPE?!

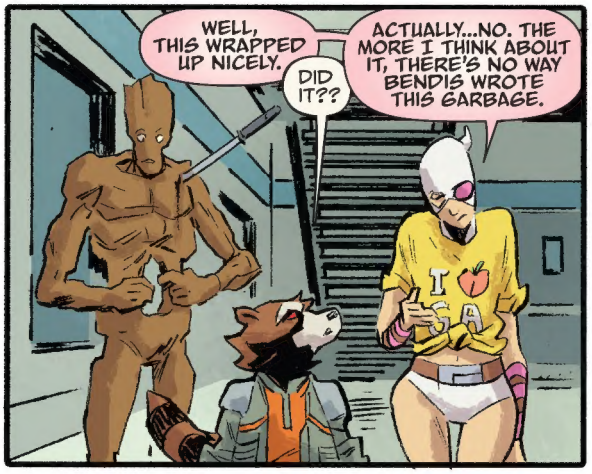
"...THE ABILITY TO MORPH INTO A PUDDLE OF WATER."

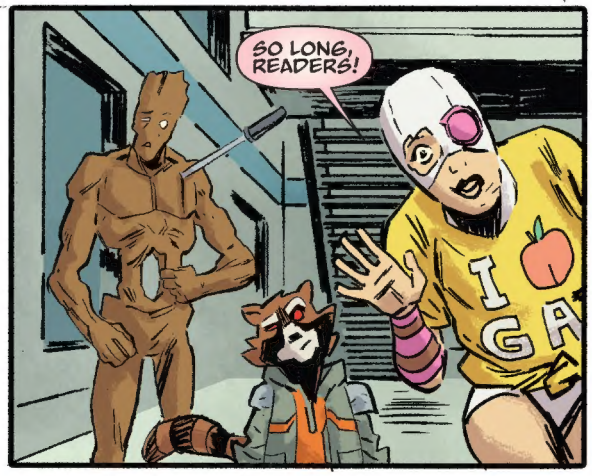
WHICH IS A PRETTY LAME SUPER-POWER. UNLESS NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT IT.
WELL, CHAMMY. THANK YOU. I OWE YOU MY LIFE.
ACTUALLY, WE'RE EVEN.

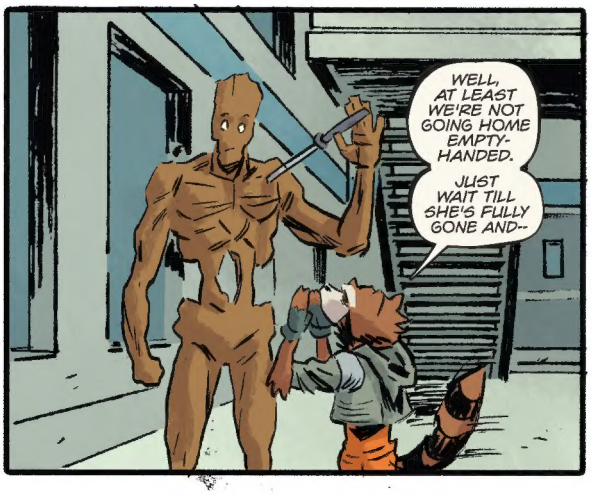
YOU SURE I CAN'T CONVINCE YOU TO STICK AROUND? WE CAN ALWAYS USE ANOTHER HERO.
YEAH, AND BE *PUDDLE BOY*? NO THANK YOU.
I'M NOT GOING TO. YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THANKING US, CAPTAIN. IT WASN'T A BIG--

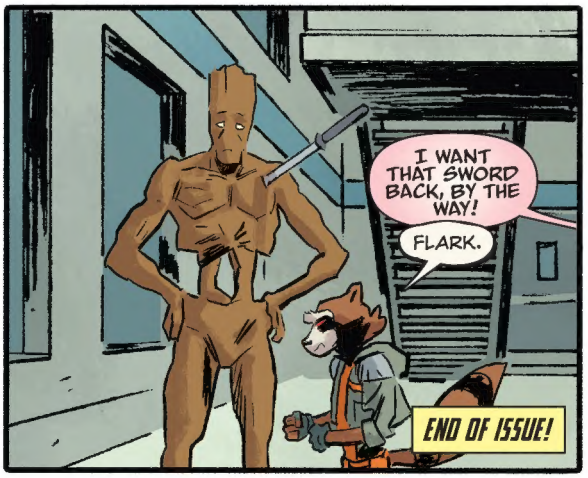
WE CAUSED A DISTRACTION! EXECUTED DI IS VERY H
I FOIL BABY PO THEFT *AND* SURVIVED SITTING IN A MIDDLE SEAT--
DON'T BOTHER ME FOR EIGHT HOURS, I'M GOING TO SLEEP.




WELL, THIS WRAPPED UP NICELY.
DID IT??
ACTUALLY...NO. THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE'S NO WAY BENDIS WROTE THIS GARBAGE.


SO LONG, READERS!


WELL, AT LEAST WE'RE NOT GOING HOME EMPTY-HANDED.
JUST WAIT TILL SHE'S FULLY GONE AND--


I WANT THAT SWORD BACK, BY THE WAY!
FLARK.
END OF ISSUE!

THE ADVENTURES OF ROCKET RACCOON AND GROOT CONTINUE IN...

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

ISSUE #13
ON SALE OCTOBER 26

ROCKET RACCOON

ISSUE #1
ON SALE IN DECEMBER

AND LOOK FOR GWEN IN...

THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL

ISSUE #7
ON SALE OCTOBER 12